CALL TO ACTION – January 28

PROTECT OUR QUALITY OF LIFE

Take the Olympia Indivisible Whopper® Neutrality Challenge!
The people at Burger King just surprised the heck out of us. Four days ago they posted online a rather humorous explanation of Net Neutrality – titled Whopper Neutrality. It is not only funny, it is effective. Some people who didn’t understand Net Neutrality are starting to get it. They have 11 million views on Facebook and another 3 million on Youtube. They have reach! https://www.facebook.com/burgerking/ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ltzy5vRmN8Q

We on the Action Team were astounded to see a mainstream American corporation take such a stand, particularly one that does not seem to benefit them directly. Bravo, Burger King, say we!

ACTION: To reward their efforts and to raise more fuss, we issue the following challenge to you all. Show up at the Westside Burger King 400 Cooper Point Rd. (by the post office) this Thursday at 2:00pm and buy a Whopper! Wear your Olympia Indivisible t-shirt or your button. We will take pictures and have some fun! But wait you say, I’m a vegetarian, or maybe you just don’t like burgers. No problem. If you want to donate your Whopper to local homeless folks, we will gather them up and run them over to a local homeless camp while they are still warm.

The net neutrality battle is not over yet! Keep Net Neutrality safe by signing the petition at Change.org/SavetheNet.

We say yes to the people at Burger King’s effort and let’s encourage more American corporate CEO’s and boards to step up and have their company follow suit.

STOP Republicans From Gutting Consumer Protections (AGAIN!)

Do you remember the last housing mortgage crisis with so many families losing their homes? Dodd Frank was passed to prevent banks from doing this again by preventing risky lending practices. Now Republicans are trying to gut those protections under the guise of “helping community banks”

What’s the issue: House Republicans already voted to gut the Dodd-Frank Wall Street reform law this past summer with legislation called the “Financial CHOICE Act.” Now, on the heels of a huge giveaway to the rich and corporations with the #GOPTaxScam, the Senate is back with its own, Heritage Foundation-endorsed version of Wall Street deregulation.

What to expect: The “Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act” (S. 2155) is expected to hit the Senate floor in February. While not as radically extreme as the House’s CHOICE Act, this bill would still put us at risk of another financial crisis, allow racial discrimination in mortgage lending to go unchecked, and erode critical consumer protections.
Bottom line: Because this bill has been flying under the radar, it currently has 12 Democratic co-sponsors in the Senate. This bill goes way beyond “helping community banks.”

**ACTION:** Call our Senators Murray and Cantwell with this simple and important message:

My name is ___________ and I am calling as a member of Olympia Indivisible to tell Senator _______ to vote NO! on Senate Bill 2155 that will gut consumer protections for home loans. We don’t need another housing crisis of families losing their homes because of risky lending practices.

**Next Steps for DACA**

**Background:** Although many of us are deeply disappointed that the Democrats were not able to leverage a government shutdown to obtain passage of a solution for DACA, we have to recognize the political realities of being in the minority. The Democrats were able to leverage a six year extension of the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), an OI priority and get assurances from the Republicans in the Senate that they would address DACA, in return for their votes for another short-term spending bill. This bill expires on February 8, giving Democrats another opportunity to use leverage in support of DACA. As Senator Murray said after the shutdown was resolved with a commitment from Senator Mitch McConnell: “I know that there will be legitimate concerns and questions about the commitments that Republican leaders have made today. I share those concerns, and I am going to be watching Republican leaders’ actions over the coming weeks, not just their words—and I stand ready to hold the Republican Congress accountable for results.”

The White House released their list of demands for what they expect Congress to do in return for protecting DACA on Thursday, January 25, and not surprisingly it is a hard line, anti-immigrant proposal that includes provisions for funding to building a wall on the U.S.’s southern border and ending family reunification. Because the government is only funded through February 8, this next week will be critical for OI members to let our MOCs know of our concern that instead of considering extension of DACA, Mitch McConnell and the other Republicans will simply put Trump’s immigration bill on the floor, and claim that meets their commitment, while trying to pressure Democrats into agreeing to fund the wall.

Trump created the DACA crisis, so now it is up to the Republicans to fix this. There is bipartisan support for fixing DACA; our MOCs should be working to strengthen that support. Building a wall is the wrong solution to addressing border security: it creates an ecological catastrophe and signals that we are becoming an unwelcoming, anti-immigrant country. It may be unrealistic to think that we can actually stop their wall, but we shouldn’t make it easy for them, and maybe our resistance will result in a border security outcome that isn’t as permanent as a real wall. In any case, we should demand that DACA must be fixed now, without holding the Dreamers hostage to the Trump wall.

Congress needs to act to reauthorize DACA as part of agreeing to a Federal budget for the rest of the year, without also funding the Trump wall or agreeing to any part of the Trump anti-immigration proposal.

**ACTION:** Call Senator Murray (253) 572-3636, Senator Cantwell (253) 572-2281 and Rep. Heck (360) 459-8514. Script: Hello, my name is ___________, and I am a member of Olympia Indivisible. I am calling to ask to hold Senator McConnell to his commitment to consider a real DACA extension, not the Trump version which holds the Dreamers hostage to Trump’s wall and is a hardline, anti-immigrant proposal. Thank you for getting CHIP extended for 6 years as part of the short-term budget extension, but we cannot rest until we have also fixed DACA, which Trump and the Republicans broke without having any idea how they were going to fix it.

**SAVE OUR DEMOCRACY**

**DON'T LET TRUMP FIRE MUELLER**

It's now crystal clear that Trump wants to fire Mueller; in fact he ordered his firing last June, we found out this week from the New York Times - but the White House Counsel prevented it.
Congress must step up to protect Mueller. Ask Senators Murray and Cantwell and Rep. Heck to push again for legislation to quickly pass Congress and that is veto-proof to protect Mueller.

**ACTION:** Call Senator Cantwell (253)572-2281, Senator Murray (253)572-3636, Rep. Heck (360)459-8514

**Script:** My name is ____________, and I am a member of Olympia Indivisible. Trump wants to fire Mueller, but we can't let that happen. Please do everything you can to swiftly pass a bill that would prevent Mueller's firing. Last week's New York Times article made it crystal clear that Trump sees Mueller as a threat and wants to fire him. This would be a disaster for our country, and it must be stopped. Either pass a bill or insist that the upcoming budget negotiations include a provision to prevent Muller's firing. Thank you!

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**READY FOR MORE?**

Read This Week’s Research Report and find other important actions to take this week

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**COMING SOON**

**February 2 Friday (6-8 pm)**
**Olympia Indivisible Members TGIF Gathering!**
Bring your ideas for making America better! Three Magnets Brewery 600 Franklin St. Olympia.

**Feb 5 Mon 7:00 PM**
**Olympia Indivisible Membership Meeting**
**Electoral Engagement 2018**
Room 152 Thurston County Courthouse

This is our kickoff for 2018 to win the fall elections. The membership has spoken - we want to engage in electoral politics and we want to WIN!

This will not be a lecture, this will be a working meeting where we, the members, roll up our sleeves and get to work. There will be more info to follow soon!